

NOTE ON LEAF-OVIPOSITION OF *ZENILLIA*  
*FUTILIS* (DIPT., TACHINIDAE).

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The habit of certain parasitic flies, of which *Z. futilis* is one, of depositing their eggs on leaves so that they are ingested by the host, has been recognized for some time. There have been very few contributions on the subject, however, so the following experience seems worth recording.

Some years ago a brood of *Apantesis phalerata* (Harris) was reared from eggs obtained in August from a captured female. The larvae were fed at first on dandelion, later on plantain. Pupation began September 16. On September 24 a parasite grub issued from one of the first pupae, and during the following two weeks some two dozen parasites appeared, sometimes two from one pupa. Rarely a grub issued from a larva which had not pupated. The grubs transformed into the adult flies in about ten days, the first fly emerging October 3.

The following year another brood of *phalerata* was reared from eggs laid in May. The larvae, which were fed on dandelion, pupated in June. Out of thirty-one pupae eleven proved to be parasitized, the grubs first appearing June 26, giving the adult flies July 8. A brood of *Apantesis oithona* was reared at the same time; these larvae were fed on plantain. There was a high mortality from disease and only twelve pupae were obtained, but three of these were parasitized.

The parasite in every case proved to be *Zenillia futilis* (Osten Sacken). The flies were kindly determined for me by Mr. C. W. Johnson.

All the larvae were reared in covered glass jars and were under close observation. It is highly improbable, to say the least, that an adult parasite could have been introduced into several jars without being noticed; the parasites must have been put in with the leaves as eggs or minute larvae.

This is the only instance I ever had of parasitism occurring in larvae reared from the egg, in several years of breeding moths and butterflies. It may be worth noting that until I reared the *Apantesis* larvae I had never had occasion to use either dandelion or plantain as a food plant. It would be interesting to hear from other lepidopterists who have had the experience of introducing parasites into the breeding cages; I do not believe it is a common occurrence.